

NEWS RELEASE

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Project Safe Neighborhoods: Danville Man Charged with Federal Firearms Crimes

Rock Island, IL- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury today returned an indictment charging Justin Anthony Winters, age 22, of 601 Sherman Street, Danville, Illinois, with possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

The indictment alleges in count one that Winters possessed a .32 caliber semi-automatic pistol despite having been previously convicted of three felony crimes in Illinois. According to the indictment filed today, Winters' prior felony convictions were in Vermillion County, Illinois, and included the misuse of a credit card in 2004, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon in 2004, and theft in 2001. The indictment further alleges in count two that the pistol possessed by Winters had an obliterated serial number, which is a separate federal crime.

According to the criminal complaint previously filed in this case, on January 23, 2006, a vehicle in which Winters was a passenger was stopped in Kewanee, Illinois for a traffic offense by the Black Hawk Area Task Force. The complaint alleges that after the traffic stop, Winters dropped a Beretta Tomcat .32 caliber pistol, and was also found to have four rounds of .32 caliber ammunition in his pocket.

(More)

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Illinois State Police Zone 2 Methamphetamine Response Team, the Black Hawk Area Task Force, the Kewanee Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sara Darrow under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

If convicted for the offense of possession of a firearm by a felon, the maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. For the possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, the maximum penalty is five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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